

Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia over the last 70 years and those who currently serve today for their outstanding valor and patriotic service.

HONORING JAMES HONG

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2022

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Hong, a venerable actor with one of the most prolific acting careers in Hollywood history. I was fortunate enough to meet with Mr. Hong in advance of his induction to the Hollywood Walk of Fame where he will receive his very own star commemorating his outstanding career. For nearly seven decades, Mr. Hong has been gracing our screens with his legendary performances, amassing over 672 credits since the outset of his career. At 92 years old, Mr. Hong has no intentions of slowing down.

Mr. Hong was born in 1929 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to parents who immigrated from China. His father owned a local herb store, one of only two stores within the city's Chinatown. It was within these walls that Mr. Hong's passion for the arts was cemented when, on weekends, local Chinese workers gathered at his father's store and watched as a young Mr. Hong put on performances for them.

While dreams of being an entertainer remained strong as ever, Mr. Hong's parents urged him to become an engineer, so he enrolled at the University of Minnesota to study civil engineering. But his studies were interrupted when he was drafted to the Korean War. While at training at Camp McClellan in Alabama, Mr. Hong did some impressions for his fellow soldiers and quickly caught the attention of the Camp's General. Mr. Hong was ordered to remain at the base to provide entertainment to the troops and coordinate public relations with the community, preventing him from being deployed to Korea during the war.

After his service, Mr. Hong completed his civil engineering degree at the University of Southern California and worked for the County of Los Angeles in road repair. Then in 1954, Mr. Hong appeared on Groucho Marx's radio show, "You Bet Your Life," where he did impressions, including of Groucho himself. His appearance was so popular that the radio show received the second largest amount of fan mail for any episode. This appearance kickstarted Mr. Hong's incredible career in Hollywood and was one of the first of what would become hundreds and hundreds of credits, including "Chinatown," "Blade Runner," "Bonanza," "Big Trouble in Little China," "Soldier of Fortune," "Mulan," "Seinfeld," "The Big Bang Theory" and so many more.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hong often faced discrimination on set, and many of the roles he was given were stereotypical, demeaning portrayals of Chinese people. Faced with the difficult choice of playing a character that was written in a racist manner or not working at all, Mr. Hong ultimately decided to continue his acting career, but worked tirelessly to bring complexity to roles that so frequently lacked humanity.

Taking his own experiences of discrimination, Mr. Hong set out to make the entertain-

ment industry more accessible and humane, and to help expose Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) actors to opportunities. When given a script for the 1962 film "The Confessions of an Opium Eater," Mr. Hong was taken aback by the stereotypical, negative depictions of Asian characters. So, he organized a group to approach the director to argue that a rewrite of the script was needed to make its AAPI characters more human. Even though the director ultimately refused a rewrite, Mr. Hong remained committed to advocating for better, more just representation.

These experiences eventually inspired Mr. Hong and fellow actor Mako Iwamatsu to form an acting troop for Asian American actors, which eventually turned into the renowned theater group, East West Players. Since its creation, East West Players has played an instrumental role in showcasing productions formulated, designed and executed by AAPI creators. On top of that, East West Players fostered a space for AAPI artists to express themselves freely and form a community. Mr. Hong's dedication to shedding light on the abilities and accomplishments of AAPI artists is clear from the group's alumni which include names like George Takei, John Cho, Daniel Dae Kim, Randall Park and countless others.

As one of the most accomplished actors in Hollywood history, James Hong has entertained and brought joy to innumerable viewers across the country and world. Not only has Mr. Hong committed his entire professional life to entertainment but has likewise dedicated himself to uplifting the abilities and careers of AAPI actors and has therefore paved the way for future generations of performers to come. It can be said with certainty that Mr. Hong has made an immeasurable, positive impact in the performing arts. It is my distinct honor to commemorate his career and life.

MIKE HUGGINS AND LENKA JUCHELKOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Huggins and Lenka Juchelkova for receiving the 2021 Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneur of the Year recognizes an individual or team for their commitment, investment, and innovation as a business owner in Arvada.

Mike and Lenka own and operate the Arvada Tavern and the Glo Car Wash in Arvada along with several other businesses in the Denver metro area. Their businesses define what is great about this community: reliable, consistent, great customer service with a focus on giving back to the community they call home. This husband-and-wife team work tirelessly to provide high-quality service to the community and good-paying jobs and positive work culture for their employees. Mike and Lenka support not only their employees and customers but the business community as a whole.

Congratulations to Mike Huggins and Lenka Juchelkova for this honor and I thank them for their contribution to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LILLIE E. PERKINS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2022

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sadness and immense gratitude that I stand to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to remember Mrs. Lillie E. Perkins, a New Haven institution in our education community. I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Lillie was not only that kind of educator, but she was also that kind of community leader. She inspired your students and colleagues alike and will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known her.

At the tender age of 7 Lillie knew that she was "born to teach." In pursuit of this dream, she earned her bachelor's degree at Fayetteville State University before moving to Connecticut with her husband, James, and earning her master's degree from the University of Connecticut and an Administrative Sixth Year Certificate from Southern Connecticut State University. She and James raised their daughters, Tiara and Sharon, and Lillie began her thirty-six-year career with the New Haven Public School system. Lillie was an extraordinarily gifted teacher with a passion and compassion that was felt by the students in her classroom as well as kids across the community.

In addition to her work in the classroom, Lillie's invaluable contributions to young people and the community have left an indelible mark. Early in her career she recognized the need for young people to have the opportunity to express themselves in a positive way after school hours. Whether with the Dr. Martin Luther King Choir, the Helene Grant School Choir, or the remarkable Unity Boys Choir, she found ways for these young people from across Greater New Haven to come together and achieve extraordinary accomplishments for which they can be very proud. I have had the opportunity to hear the angelic voices of the Unity Boys Choir and have seen first-hand the light in their eyes that comes with the excitement and adoration of the crowds they are entertaining. Lillie touched their lives in a very special way—not only allowing them to share their musical talents with others but teaching them the importance of and satisfaction in giving back to the community.

Lillie's engagement in the community also extended beyond her service to the school system. She volunteered her time and energies to a number of other programs community initiatives including the Mayor's Youth Service Program, the Toys/Teas/Toys Closets program at Yale Children's Hospital, the 1995 Special Olympic World Games in Connecticut, the Kids Protection Network Program, Christian Community Action's Food program, and the New Haven Board of Young Adult Police Commissioners. Lillie was also an active member of Bible Gospel Church as well as the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and served as a community assistant for senior citizens. The myriad of awards and commendations she received over the lifetime are a testament to the difference she made in the community and the lives of others.

With her passing, New Haven has lost a much cherished and invaluable member of our